

REMARKS

Claims 33-52 are pending; and of these, claims 33 and 52 have been amended. Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested in view of this Paper.

The Examiner has objected to claims 36-38 on the basis of the assertion that, “the claim recites the limitation “said support frame” . . .;” and specifically because of the assertion that “there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation.”

Applicant takes this opportunity to note that the featured “support frame” is clearly recited in claim 33 from which claim 36 as well Applicant’s remaining claims either directly or indirectly depend. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that sufficient antecedent basis for the aforementioned feature is provided; accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Further, the Examiner has objected to claim 52 with respect to its stated dependency. As shown above, Applicant has amended claim 52 to depend from claim 33; thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 33-52 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the basis of the assertion that such claims are unpatentable over Kodama et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,844,801) in view of Karlsson (U.S. Pat. No. 3,968,559). With respect to Applicant’s claims, as amended, the Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended Applicant’s independent claim 33 to recite Applicant’s apparatus for recording, measuring, and documenting damages to an

object having a painted surface comprising a support frame in which the object is receivable, said support frame including guide rails mounted along the periphery therethroughout of said support frame, a focused light source for illuminating the surface with a light beam, said light source being mounted on said support frame such that said light source is displaceable along said guide rails and pivotable at least one of horizontally or vertically, a screen for forming an image of the surface by the light beam reflected by the surface, said screen being mounted on said support frame such that said screen is displaceable along said guide rails and is pivotable, a recording device for recording the images, a measurement table to which the object is anchorable, said measurement table being rotatable about a longitudinal axis thereby allowing each position of the painted surface of said object to be brought into a reflection position with respect to said light source and said screen, a processor unit for correlating and coordinating movements of the light source, the screen, and the object, an evaluation and signal processing device for creating results by processing and evaluating the images recorded, and at least one of a display or an output device for displaying and/or outputting the results.

Kodama et al. and Karlsson, either when taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest Applicant's apparatus for recording, measuring, and documenting damages to an object having a painted surface. More specifically, there is no teaching or suggestion of Applicant's featured support frame including guide rails mounted along the periphery therethroughout of said support frame.

Kodama et al., with reference to its FIG. 6, discloses an inspection apparatus including a stationary measuring table 108 on which its vehicle body 16 may be positioned. Mounted to the table at opposite ends of one side thereof are two columns 110a and 110b which support a single guide rail 112 therebetween. A further rail 114 is supported from the rail 112 and carries a rail 116 and attached inspection device 122. The rails 112 and 114 are situated in a T-shape relation such that the rails 114 and 116, and thus the inspection device 122, are overhung above the table 108 and are only positionable over the vehicle body 16 between the columns 110a and 110b. Accordingly, multiple sides of the table 108 have no guide rail along which its inspection device may be supported while inspection of the vehicle body occurs. As such, the inspection device 122 is limited to capturing only those images that are obtainable by it between the columns 110a and 110b and, further, from the perspective of its positioning at its fixed angle θ . Accordingly, Kodama et al. fails to teach or suggest Applicant's support frame including multiple guide rails in which such featured guide rails (are) mounted along the periphery therethroughout of said support frame; thus, at least on this basis, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejection be withdrawn.

Further, Kodama et al. thus likewise fails to teach or suggest Applicant's light source for illuminating the surface with a light beam, said light source being mounted on said support frame such that said light source is displaceable along said guide rails and pivotable at least one of horizontally or vertically, together with

Applicant's screen for forming an image of the surface by the light beam reflected by the surface, said screen being mounted on said support frame such that said screen is displaceable along said guide rails and is pivotable.

The Examiner has asserted, at page three (3) of the Office Action, that the light source 118 of Kodama et al. equates to Applicant's recited light source. However, this is not the case. The light source 118 of Kodama et al. is attached to its rail 116 and is moveable along the X, Y and Z axes of the structure shown in FIG. 6, as explained at column 8, lines 12-13. The light source 118 is not pivotable with respect to any structure therein. Thus, Kodama et al. further fails to teach or suggest this feature of Applicant's claimed apparatus.

Likewise, Kodama et al. is asserted to disclose Applicant's recited screen, as recited above; more specifically, the Examiner has asserted that the screen 152 of Kodama et al. "is capable of" Applicant's claimed mounting and thus also Applicant's recited mounting and pivoting thereof.

Similarly as above, this is also not the case. In fact, Kodama et al. and its discussion of its screen 152 at its column 11 fails to teach or suggest anything about its mounting or any capability therefor.

Karlsson similarly fails to teach or suggest Applicant's support frame, as recited, and furthermore fails to teach or suggest Applicant's recited measurement table.

Instead, Karlsson addresses vehicle production and discloses the use of its trundles 13 and support beams 14 to carry a vehicle body and to allow tipping of the vehicle body by a connected tipping device 15 during the production process. Nowhere in Karlsson is there any teaching or suggestion of Applicant's measurement table to which an object is anchorable, said measurement table being rotatable about a longitudinal axis that, together with Applicant's support frame, light source and screen, allows each position of the painted surface of Applicant's object to be brought into a reflection position with respect to Applicant's light source and Applicant's screen.

Thus, as discussed above, Kodama et al. and Karlsson, either when taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest Applicant's support frame, and additionally, Applicant's light source, screen and measurement table; more particularly, Applicant's support frame which includes guide rails mounted along the periphery therethroughout of said support frame, Applicant's focused light source for illuminating the surface with a light beam, said light source being mounted on said support frame such that said light source is displaceable along said guide rails and pivotable at least one of horizontally or vertically, Applicant's screen for forming an image of the surface by the light beam reflected by the surface, said screen being mounted on said support frame such that said screen is displaceable along said guide rails and is pivotable, and Applicant's measurement table to which the object (being viewed) is anchorable, said measurement table being rotatable about a longitudinal

axis thereby allowing each position of the painted surface of said object to be brought into a reflection position with respect to said light source and said screen.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over Kodama et al. and Karlsson, either when taken alone or in combination.

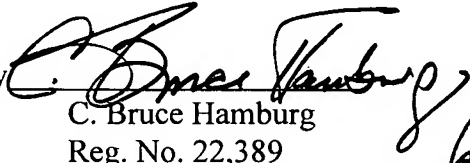
Applicant respectfully requests a two month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. **The fee of \$245.00 for the extension is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.**

If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized in the Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 or the Form PTO-2038 is missing or fee payment via the Form PTO-2038 cannot be processed, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.


In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP

By 
C. Bruce Hamburg
Reg. No. 22,389
Attorney for Applicants *log*

and,

By 
Brian H. Buck
Reg. No. 48,776
Attorney for Applicants

Jordan and Hamburg LLP
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10168
(212) 986-2340